

Regular Meeting
January 12, 2004

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, January 12, 2004, at 9:00a.m. in the Commissioners Room, Courthouse.

Present: Jimmy Alligood, Louis Belfield, Ralph Cole, Jerry Downum, Wayne Goodwin, George Jones, Harry Lee Winslow.

Chairman Louis Belfield called the meeting to order and recognized Tax Administrator Lynda Hendricks who has returned to work following sickness. Commissioner Cole presented the invocation.

Consent Agenda

By motion of Commissioner Jones, the Consent Agenda, including the December meeting minutes and the following budget amendments and tax releases, was approved.

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Budget Amendments

4330	Civil Prep.	inc	\$15,225	Emergency Operations plan Grant
4310	Sheriff	inc	4,580	insurance proceeds
4208	Sr Center	inc	1,582	Albemarle Commission Aging Grant
5345	DSS	inc	43,516	Child Day Care Funding
5234	Grant	inc	43,428	Juvenile Prosecutor Grant
5352	DSS	inc	7,269	EDTAP, RGP Transportation Funds
41-4930	Hurricane	inc	5,800	regional grant -hurricane damage
5333	DSS	inc	44,800	Smart Start funding

Tax Releases

112 W Water St Rest/Cafe	\$513.66	to be billed to Astrosoft Inc
Branwick Assoc	390.37	taxes relieved due to change in ownership
BD Brewer	110.89	listed in SCarolina
MH Buttry	165.25	vehicle listed in daughter's name
DE Gray	193.29	commercial tags purchased
AP Higginbotham	161.61	listed in Bertie Co
TR Palmer	115.37	vehicle sold
DM Peele	129.77	vehicle sold
WH Black	123.44	vehicle sold
AW Evans	107.82	new value until repaired
REVCO	128.36	incorrect value used for equipment
M Szczesny	154.15	vehicle sold

Board Appointments

Chowan County Planning Board

Edenton Planning Board

Commissioner Winslow made a motion that Jack Held be appointed to the Chowan County Planning Board and Bill Gardner be appointed to the Edenton Planning Board.

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2006 Appraisal Contract

County Manager Cliff Copeland presented a proposed contract prepared by Pearson Appraisal Services to provide appraisal services for the 2006 revaluation, at a cost of \$21/parcel. Pearson provided appraisal services to the County in the last revaluation and the County was very pleased with their work performance and working relationship with the County. This price was compared and found to be in line with prices being paid by other counties.

Commissioner Goodwin made a motion that the County award the contract to Pearson Appraisal Services.

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Planning/Inspections Report

Planner Elizabeth Bryant stated that the Building Inspectors are seeing a tapering off of storm damage repair and an increase in new construction. She also stated that several code enforcement issues are presently being addressed by the staff.

She noted that the Sandy Point developers will present preliminary drawings to the Planning Board at a meeting tonight, January 12, to which the Commissioners are invited to attend.

Continuing Hurricane Recovery

Staff Attorney Peter Rascoe reported that the FEMA funded roadside debris pickup is complete and that NCDOT is in the process of making a third pass on secondary and primary roads. The County has approximately \$700-\$800,000 in expenses still out. Mr. Rascoe and Finance Officer Lisa Jones continue to process expenses and to negotiate with FEMA on reimburseables.

Negotiations center around the fact that FEMA has treated other storm recoveries more generously than Chowan and the County is requesting equal treatment.

The airport debris site should be cleaned by the end of January.

Establish Capital Reserve Fund - Storm Proofing Fund for Water System In the County's effort to more aggressively address hurricane preparedness, the Finance Committee recommended that the County establish a capital reserve fund to provide monies for generators for the water system, more elevated storage and interconnections between water systems in the area, and other improvements as identified to stabilize the water system in an emergency. Engineers Diehl and Phillips are working with the County to plan and perform the needed upgrades. The proposal to collect additional revenue is calculated to be ten percent of a water bill over the basic charge (\$9), which will generate approximately \$150,000 per year. The County will borrow from its reserves to fund the costs of the upgrade and will pay itself back from the revenue generated by this charge.

Commissioner Downum moved that the County proceed with the establishment of the capital reserve fund and the improvements to the Water System, through the proposed financing arrangement.

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Canal Cleanup

Commissioner Alligood moved that the County accept a grant from the NC Division of Water Resources to remove storm debris from the canals

in Arrowhead Beach, Cape Colony and Country Club, in the amount of \$20,335.

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The USDA Farm Services Agency will administer a grant to provide cleanup in the navigational waters.

Highway 32 Traffic Concerns

Following a recent article in The Virginian Pilot newspaper concerning the dangerous traffic conditions on Highway 32, particularly in Chowan County, the County Manager contacted the District DOT office for an update on the revised maintenance schedule. The Division Engineer is out of town and a report is not available at this time. A report will be prepared for the February meeting.

Public Safety Committee Report

Commissioner Alligood moved that the County approve the submission of three grants by the Sheriff, including:

- \$ 50,000 from the Gov's Highway Safety Program for equipment
- \$ 50,000 from the Gov's Crime Commission for mobile computers
- \$300,000 from the Gov's Crime Commission for computers and programs in the Communications Center, Sheriff's Office, Detention Center and Police Dept.

The County will seek 100% funding from these grants. If total funding is not available, the County will seek matching monies from FEMA mitigation funds.

Classes for the Center Hill Crossroads VFD to rerate the Fire Dept is scheduled for January 17 and 18. The County will then be able to proceed with a request to establish a six-mile fire district for Chowan County.

A proposal to provide a First Responder District for the Belvidere Fire Dept will be prepared for the February meeting.

In the County's continued effort to address the EMS/Rescue manpower issues, the Public Safety Committee recommended that the County:

1. complete a performance audit on the EMT-I program, including the efficiency of the program, the quality of service and its costs;
2. instruct EMS to proceed to fill all positions presently budgeted;
3. instruct EMS that the 2004-05 EMS budget request include funding to provide service levels throughout the County to meet State standards of response time and quality of service. Also in the provision of these standards, that the staff will develop a plan to insure a vibrant rescue squad service.

Commissioner Jones moved that the above recommendations be approved.

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Request for Support of the Repeal of G.S. 104-7 - Granting Exclusivity to all Federal Entities without Requirement of Review by the State of North Carolina Outlying Landing Field opponents in Washington and Beaufort Counties have requested Chowan County's support of a repeal of G.S. 104-7

which says that Federal agencies may acquire properties in the State of North Carolina without review by the State of North Carolina.

By motion of Commissioner Winslow, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners agreed to confirm its support for Washington and

Beaufort in their efforts to oppose the location of the Navy's outlying landing field in Washington and Beaufort counties.

Public Comment

None

Walker Gym/Recreation Dept

By motion of Commissioner Alligood, the County approved the submission of a grant request to the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for renovations to the Walker Gym (the old Walker Elementary School) now deeded to the County by the School System and used by the county-wide Recreation Dept.

Mr. Copeland stated that the County will apply for approximately \$75,000 in funding to replace the gym floor, install basketball goals and add new bleachers. The County will provide the matching monies to fund the approximately \$150,000 project. Additional phases will be added to complete the renovation as funds are available.

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Country Club Area Drainage Project

Commissioner Winslow made a motion that the Board authorize the County staff to award the Clean Water Management Trust Fund drainage project work in the country club and golf course area of the County following evaluation of the bids just received. The bids are being reviewed by the staff of the Soil Conservation District office.

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Holladay's Island Dedication

Peter Rascoe invited the Commissioners to a special "planting of the flag" ceremony at the recently acquired Holladay's Island property (through the Clean Water Management Trust Fund). Mr. Rascoe gave a brief history and described the new County property acquisition as significant in that this property was one of the last proprietary grants to a citizen prior to the King taking back all the properties in the Colonies. He stated it is the intent of the County's Recreation Department to apply for funding to build several camping platforms for recreational use as a part of the County's canoe and kayake trail system. The history of the island and the interesting wildlife habitat make for a wonderful eco-tourism stop. The island will be under the protection of a conservation easement for perpetuity.

Manager's Report

Old Courthouse

Money to complete the plaster work in the Old Courthouse has been appropriated and the paperwork is in the process of going through the State government channels. A spring completion date is still in place.

Maintenance Department

Maintenance Dept Supervisor Don Evans has accepted disability retirement and the County is advertising for the position. Commissioners and employees are invited to That Fancy Cafe following the meeting to recognize Mr. Evans' retirement and to present a plaque to him.

Chairman Committee Appointments

The Chairman's Committee Appointments will remain the same as last year.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk